THE DEWAN observed that it was not possible for him to make any announcement off-hand in the matter. It was a very complicated question and required to be carefully considered. Government were aware of the difficulties of the raiyats and they would consider what kind of relief could be given to them. In the meanwhile, they had issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioners to be lenient in the matter of collections so as not to cause any undue hardship to the raiyat.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY feared that the raiyats would not get the benefit of those instructions as the Amildars would continue to take coercive measures.

MR. T. MARIAPPA appealed to the Government to assure the House that at least some remission of assessment would be given.

THE DEWAN replied that it was not possible to make any such general statement. But if it was found on further examination that land revenue was weighing too heavily on the raiyats in any particular taluk, Government would consider what relief could be afforded to them.

MR. BALE SIDDALINGA SETTY prayed that at least for the year 1933-34 some concession might be shown to the raiyats.

Rao Sahib M. RAMASWAMI and others prayed for substantial reduction in the assessment and said that the representation should not be regarded as applying to particular taluks. The situation was bad everywhere and both rich and poor were equally affected.

THE DEWAN replied that before the next collection season commenced, Government would take and announce a decision.

At this stage, the KANNADA TRANSLATOR TO GOVERNMENT read the Kannada version of the following concluding remarks of the Dewan :—

DEWAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS.

MEMBERS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY,

We have now reached the end of a strenuous Session. But before I bring the proceedings to a close, I should like to refer to a few of the more important matters that came up for consideration at this Session.

It is a matter of regret to Government that the general principles of the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1904, and the Bill to provide for the fostering and development of the sugar industry and for safeguarding the interests of sugar-cane cultivators, did not receive the approval of this House.

The Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1904, seeks to expedite the disposal of criminal cases. It has repeatedly come to the notice of Government that the present provision of law which requires that a court should adjourn a case or an appeal as soon as notice is given to it that the complainant or the accused proposes to apply to the High Court for a transfer of the case or appeal, as the case may be, to another court, has been abused a good deal and has defeated the ends of justice. Government proposed therefore to retain the existing provision so far as the first application for a transfer was concerned, but as regards subsequent applications to endow the presiding magistrate with discretion to postpone the case or go on with it as he deemed best in the circumstances placed before him. This, to my mind, will be a great improvement on the existing practice and is clearly necessary to prevent reckless and irresponsible persons from obstructing the course of justice and wasting public time and money.

The other measure was intended to provide for the development of the sugar industry and to safeguard the interests of the sugar-cane cultivators— objects which it might have been thought would readily appeal to the House. During the past two or three years, there has been, as you are aware, a great stimulus to the establishment of sugar factories and this has led to a large expansion of sugar-cane cultivation. Government considered that if this activity were left entirely to the free play of competition, the conflict of interests between the sugar-cane cultivators and the sugar producers would prejudicially affect the country as a whole and that to prevent such conflict Government should take steps to bring about a well-ordered development of the industry. They desired to take powers to license factories and to fix a minimum price for sugar-cane. The House has, however, disapproved of the proposals of Government by a small majority mainly on the ground that the interests of the sugar-cane growers are likely to be neglected.

I confess I am unable to understand the reasons for this decision. The intention of Government is exactly the opposite. It is to ensure that the sugar-cane cultivator

gets at least such a price for his cane as, after meeting the cost of cultivation, will leave him a reasonable margin of profit. Government are far from seeking to prevent the raiyat from realising a much higher price. If you remember that the fixation of prices is proposed to be left not in the hands of the Government, nor in the hands of the Sugar Factory authorities, nor again in the hands of the sugar-cane growers but in the hands of a body on which all these interests are adequately represented, you will, I am sure, realise that the sugar-cane growers will be fairly dealt with. Government are convinced of the need and usefulness of a measure of the kind under reference and they propose to proceed with this Bill in the Legislative Council.

It is rather deeply disappointing that these measures, so clearly in the public interest, are not stamped with the approval of the people's representatives here, because in such matters Government have a right to your keen co-operation. By your withholding this, Government's difficulties are increased, no doubt, but that is an injury not to Government but to the State, and it is also an injury to the prestige of democratic institutions in Mysore. It is always the hope of Government that this democratic Assembly may justify itself in the fullest sense. It has to express candidly the hopes and apprehensions and views of the people, but it has also to consider the proposals of Government with that reasonableness which may fairly be expected of representatives selected for a statesmanlike duty. And where, as in these cases, the proposals are clearly of great and even urgent public usefulness, it is the duty of the Assembly to identify itself with them, and to explain their utility to the people. I feel that instinctive suspicion, automatic opposition, and the tendency, in any matter which the people may misinterpret, of standing aside so that Government alone may bear the brunt of the misapprehension, such an attitude is simply a renunciation of democratic duty. A policy in this Assembly of constructive and co-operative usefulness will be of immense and immediate value to the State. It will also tend towards the development of democratic institutions, for, as I indicated in my opening address, democracy is nowadays as suspect as tyranny, and is judged solely by its practical service to the State.

I trust that these remarks of mine will not be misunderstood by any of you and that you will take them in the spirit in which they are made. I need not assure you that they

come from a true well-wisher of the Assembly and one who is endeavouring to enhance its prestige, both in the State and outside, and to secure for it a high position in the polity of the State.

The House expressed a desire that the rate of court fees in respect of plaints presented to civil courts be reduced. In view of the strong support which this request secured on the part of the members, the matter has been examined with care. It is found that the reduction of the rates on small cause suits to the level of those prevailing in Madras would involve a loss of about Rs. 40,000 a year—a loss which it is impossible to contemplate in our present state of financial stringency. Further, our rates are, on the whole, less than those prevailing in adjacent British Indian Provinces. I am afraid, therefore, that the matter has to lie over till our finances improve.

The question of giving relief to the agriculturist in view of the existing slump in the prices of produce was again pressed on the attention of Government. But it was felt that a general reduction of the rates of assessment was scarcely feasible in the present condition of the State's finances, while the benefit of such a measure to small landholders individually would be almost negligible. Government, however, agreed to show some leniency in enforcing coercive measures for the collection of land revenue during the current year by remitting notice fees in all cases where arrears are paid before a revenue sale is held and by continuing the discretion given to district officers to waive *isthihar* fees and interest in deserving cases. The question of reducing the rate of interest charges on Land Improvement and Takavi Loans will receive early and sympathetic consideration.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have worked together for nearly four years and I am glad to say that our relations have been of the happiest. As the term of this House has expired, I am afraid that Government will lose the benefit of the active co-operation of some of you. But I fully hope to welcome many of you, and to those of you who may not be returned to the coming House, I would like to make an appeal. Don't lose your interest in public affairs. Keep it alive and come up to Government with any suggestions which, you think, will make the daily work of administration more helpful to the people and more productive of public good.

I now declare this Session closed.

On behalf of the Assembly, CAPT. Y. V. AYYA thanked the Dewan and his colleagues for having given a patient hearing to the views and representations of the members during the present term of the Assembly and also for having accepted them as far as possible. He added that they had respected the dignity of the Assembly and encouraged the members thereof to do better work in future. He also personally thanked the Dewan for his kind assurance in the matter of giving some relief to the raiyats within the next few months. Finally, he requested the Dewan to convey to His Highness the Maharaja the sentiments of loyalty and devotion of the members of the House.

With three cheers to His Highness the Maharaja, the proceedings came to a close at 5-20 p.m.

C. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR,
Secretary,
Mysore Representative Assembly.

BANGALORE,
1st February 1934.